



English Language and English Literature

Key contacts:

Mrs L Pitcher

Exam Board:

AQA GCSE in English Language and English Literature

Overview of the course:

Though these subjects are two separate GCSEs, we teach Language and Literature alongside each other to ensure that the key analytical and writing skills are developed across both subjects. The English Language examination syllabus concentrates on testing students' expertise in the two key skills of English:

- Reading
- Writing

The course focuses on analysing language, structure and key authorial methods from a range of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts and then asking students to apply these skills in their own writing.

The English Literature syllabus focuses on key set texts, exploring how the writers use methods effectively and how this presentation of character and theme is affected by contextual factors.

Speaking and Listening will no longer count towards final grades in GCSE English Language. Instead, it will be recorded separately on certificates as an endorsement to the qualification. The Speaking Component will be completed at the end of Year 10.

What will you study?

Year 10: The students begin to prepare for their examinations through the introduction to the examination format and the study of their key texts. Students will study: 'Macbeth', 'A Christmas Carol', 'An Inspector Calls' and the 'Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology'.

Year 11: Students begin a focused approach to the examinations, exploring examination technique and the mark scheme requirements. Their lessons will be split equally between their preparation for English Language and English Literature: both qualifications are 100% examinations.

Assessment

Language Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes:

One fiction extract
Four reading questions
One writing task: a description or narrative

Language Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minutes:

Two non-fiction extracts
Four reading questions
One writing task: a non-fiction text to argue

Literature Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes

a) Macbeth
b) A Christmas Carol
Extract based - how does the writer present a character/theme in the extract and the whole text?

Literature Paper 2 - 2 hours 15 minutes

a) An Inspector Calls (an essay on how the writer presents a character or theme in the play)
b) Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology (compare a given poem with a poem of your choice)
c) Unseen Poetry (exploring how a poet presents a theme in an unseen poem and comparing this to another unseen poem)

Spoken Language Endorsement

A four-minute individual presentation, on a subject of the student's choice, followed by a focused question session between the student and a teacher.

Year 10 - English Literature examination questions will be completed each term as in-class assessments. Students will sit two full examinations in the summer term: one for English Language and one for English Literature.

Year 11 - Students complete two full examination series. All four English examinations will be sat in full during the November and February/March Examination Series. Students will also complete frequent in-class examination practice.

Possible career path?

Post-16 institutions and apprenticeship providers will insist on students achieving a minimum of Grade 4 in GCSE English. For the vast majority of providers, this can be both GCSE Language or Literature. At Ivybridge Community College, all students will take both GCSEs to increase their opportunities for future success. Employers and education providers will use students' GCSE English grades as a demonstration of how well students can read, write and communicate verbally.

GCSEs in English can lead to any career in any sector, particularly: teaching, journalism, sports journalism, business, politics, law, marketing and public relations, public services and beyond!